

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 17 and 18 with the following amended paragraph:

Alternatively, an assay such as the fluorescence polarization assay or the fluorescence resonance energy transfer assay can be employed to identify candidate therapeutic agents. These assays do not require the separation of bound and free labeled candidate therapeutic agent. Fluorescence polarization (FP) or fluorescence anisotropy is a useful tool for the study of molecular interactions (see, e.g. <http://www.panvera.com/tech/appguide/fpintro.html>, November 4, 1999). First, a molecule labeled with a fluorophore is excited with plane polarized light. If the fluorescent molecule stays stationary while in the excited state, light is emitted in the same polarized plane. If the excited fluorescently labeled molecule rotates out of the plane of the polarized light while in the excited state, light is emitted from the molecule in a different plane. For example, if vertical polarized light is used to excite the ~~fluorophore~~ fluorophore, the emission spectra can be monitored in the vertical and horizontal planes. Fluorescence polarization is calculated as shown in the following formula: